

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027297
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ

APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST

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O 012325Z PEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 027297

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SOPN, ET, US, SO

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON STAR ARTICLE ON ARMS IN HORN

WASHINGTON STAR CARRIED FOLLOWING ARTICLE FEBRUARY 1:

BEGIN TEXT: ETHIOPIA HAS PAID A NEW YORK AGENT TO SEND BY AIR FREIGHT SOME AMERICAN SPARE PARTS FOR ITS WARPLANES, FORCING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE A HARD CHOICE ON WHETHER TO LET A LONG-PENDING SHIPMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT GO TO THE SOVIET-AIDED REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHIPPING COMPANY SAID ETHIOPIA HAD ALSO PAID FOR OCEAN SHIPMENT OF OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT WAS PURCHASED HERE BEFORE ARMAMENT SALES TO THAT COUNTRY WERE CUT OFF LAST YEAR. THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN IN WAREHOUSES SINCE THEN.

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THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THEM HAVE REMAINED VALID DESPITE A MASSIVE SUPPLY OF SOVIET ARMAMENTS TO ETHIOPIA IN RECENT MONTHS AND INCREASING SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE ON ITS MILITARY JUNTA. THE ARMAMENTS HAVE BEEN USED TO FIGHT AN INVASION BY SOMALIA AND A REBELLION IN ERITREA.

THE ETHIOPIAN PAYMENT OF SHIPPING CHARGES IN RECENT DAYS HAS CAUSED THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECONSIDER THE SITUATION. ONE OFFICIAL SAID THAT QUESTION OF PERMITTING THE SHIPMENTS WAS RECEIVING TOP-LEVEL ATTENTION AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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SPARE PARTS INCLUDE SOME OF F-5 FIGHTERS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD PROVIDED TO ETHIOPIA IN A \$227 MILLION MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FROM 1953 UNTIL LAST APRIL. THE PROGRAM WAS HALTED WHEN THE JUNTA EXPELLED U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS AND TURNED TO MOSCOW.

ISRAELI TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN HELPING KEEP THE F-5S FLYING, AND ISRAEL HAS SUPPLIED NAPALM AND CLUSTER BOMBS FOR THEM TO DROP ON ERITREAN SEPARATISTS AND HAS SPECIALLY ADAPTED ROCKETS FOR THE F-5S TO SHOOT AT SOMALI TANKS. SOVIET-MADE WARPLANES ARE ALSO BEING USED BY ETHIOPIA, SOME REPORTEDLY FLOWN BY CUBAN PILOTS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JW TWINAM
-----014570 022124Z /64
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 027297 ACTION ADDIS ABABA MOGADISCIO
TEHRAN JIDDA 01 FEB 78

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JW TWINAM
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: <CONCATENATED>
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KPGARLAND:JJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/228e08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014